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The Royal British Legion
Henley-on-Thames and Peppard Branch



Annual General Meeting
Monday October 19th 2020

Via Zoom Meeting.

1	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhortation • Apologies for Absence. Peter Ashby, Tim Davies. Sara Abey, Annie Arscott. • Minutes of previous AGM meeting October 21st 2019 – review and approved by the branch. • Chairs report. • Treasurers report & adoption of accounts. • Membership secretaries report. • Speaker co Ordinator report • PAO report • Newsletter editors report • Appointment of committee. • AGM attending members. • David & Shirley Lees, Julian Brookes, Sandra Moon, Chris Thompson, Hiltegund Blaker, Christine Searle, Evelyn Robinson (new member), Alfred Waller (new member) • Committee attendees – Anne Evans, John Green, Stan Ainsley, Mollie Jeffrey, Helen Walsh, Lt Col Peter Blaker, Lt Col Nick Launders, Martin Goodier. 	JW Green
2	<p><u>Chairman’s Report for 2020.</u></p> <p>There can be no doubt that due to Covid19 pandemic or “Plague” as Peter Blaker refers to it, the branch activities have been severely curtailed, however we have done our best.</p> <p>John warmly welcomed new branch members Evelyn Robinson and Alfred Waller to the meeting.</p> <p>1st February – 95th County Conference at Benson village hall. Lt Col Nick Launders attended as branch delegate and John Green as Standard Bearer.</p> <p>Brig Malcolm Page moved to a permanent residence at the Chiltern Court Care Centre in Henley.</p>	JW Green

<p>March – Lockdown!!</p> <p>Committee meetings held now via Zoom calls. Thanks to Nick and Anne.</p> <p>VE Day 75th Anniversary</p> <p>Original plans shelved but successful window dressing competition created a well reported response by local media.</p> <p><u>VJ Day 75th Anniversary</u></p> <p>Following Government guidelines, we were able to mark this major event in Market Place, including prayers conducted by our Padre Father Jeremy Tayler. The address was given by Lt Col Peter Blaker, playing of the last post followed by two minutes silence with the lowering of the Standard from Branch and Dunkirk veterans.</p> <p>Good attendance by socially distanced citizens and again well reported by The Henley Standard and Herald.</p> <p><u>Remembrance Sunday 8 November 2020</u></p> <p>Will be similar to our VJ Day Commemoration – details of which will be in the local press.</p> <p><u>Armistice Day Wednesday 11/11/20</u></p> <p>Two minutes silence will be observed at 11.00 outside the Town Hall, Bugler and Standard bearer on parade.</p> <p><u>Poppy Appeal</u></p> <p>Saturday 24th October in Market Place the Mayor will donate for the first Poppy taken socially distanced from Branch Chairman Anne Evans.</p> <p><u>Newsletter Report.</u></p> <p>With the retirement of Malcom Page, Anne Evans has taken on the role of editor and would like to thank Mollie Jeffrey for agreeing to become sub editor. Anne thanked her for her proof-reading skills par excellence!</p> <p>“Regarding the distribution of the newsletter we took an executive decision to print 80 copies and post the newsletter to our members during lockdown as we felt it would be a nice gesture during this time of isolation for many of our members.</p> <p>Indeed, we received a grateful email from a member saying how nice it was to have it posted through the door to read at their leisure.”</p> <p>Anne thanked Mollie for taking on this additional task.</p> <p>This initiative was agreed by the committee.</p>	<p>A Evans</p>
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NB This in no way detracts from Martin's email to members giving them the opportunity to read the newsletter on our website. Thanks to you Martin for continuing to do so"

John said, as face to face meetings are still not possible, the value of our excellent newsletter increases in importance as a way of keeping in touch with our members.

Special thanks to the editor Anne Evans for her hard work and creativity.

Brian Hughes

Memorial Service took place on Friday 9th October at Trinity Church. A very moving service after which Brian's ashes together with his late wife Ursula and his brother were interned. A bugler sounded the last post and Reveille. Lt Col Peter Blaker gave the exhortation and the branch Standard and Dunkirk Veterans Standard were lowered during the silence. A fitting tribute to a well loved and much missed friend.

2021

It looks like more of the same for 2021 so let us redouble our efforts to keep the flag flying and keep in touch via phone or messaging. Especially those members who may be housebound.

Treasurers Report

The Kipling Event – The £300 deposit is non refundable from the Red Lion but we have been offered a credit. The Red Lion has now been sold, so we will approach the new owners for the return of our deposit.

Treasurer has asked that his report be adopted by the members. Stan & Sandra Moon offered.

Treasurers Report is attached to these minutes as a separate document

Martin Goodier wanted to give special thanks to Andrew Spicer who has audited our branch accounts for many years. The branch will be sending a letter of appreciation and thanks along with a small gift. A certificate of thanks was also suggested by John Green.

M Goodier

<p><u>Members Report</u></p> <p>We have six new members but have sadly lost seventeen! James McConville has tried with Mollie to gain new members. Mollie has called and tried keeping in touch with members via phone. Mollie has also printed off copies of the newsletter and hand distributed to those not on email.</p> <p>John Green read out the letter being sent to the Harpsden branch which Mollie kindly worded. This will be sent out to all Harpsden members from Mollie as our branch membership secretary.</p>	<p>M. Jeffrey</p>
<p><u>Speakers Report</u></p> <p>Sara was not able to join the meeting but John thanked her for her enthusiastic efforts in this role and her work on plans for the future'</p> <p>David Lees will be giving a talk to the Rotary Club in November about the RBL. This will give a lot more exposure to us and hopefully lead to new members!!</p>	<p>S Abey</p>
<p><u>Poppy Appeal</u></p> <p>Boxes of Poppies will be left in shops and public places this year as door to door selling is not allowed. Annie Arscott has said she will carry on as P.A.O.</p> <p>The start of POA period is 24th October. Stan asked the question, what was the amount raised last year? Figure not been published yet but it will be communicated at a later date.</p>	<p>A Arscott</p>
<p><u>Peppard Branch</u></p> <p>Nick Launders raised £3,500 last year for the Poppy Appeal which was fantastic! Nick is standing down as the POA which is sad, John Green thanked Nick for all his efforts on behalf of the committee. It is anticipated numbers will be much smaller for November 8th this year.</p>	<p>N Launders</p> <p>J Green</p>
<p><u>Resignation & Changes</u></p> <p>John Green announced his resignation as Chairman and will be handing over to Anne Evans. John has agreed to be Branch President as Peter Blaker now takes on the role of Patron on the retirement of Malcolm Page. Malcolm will continue to be a Branch member</p>	

Appointment of Committee

The committee all agreed to the changes made to members roles after Malcom stepped down as Patron and John handed the role of Chair to Anne.

Anne Evans – Chair

Lt Col Nick Launders – Deputy Chair

John Green – President

Lt Col Peter Blaker – Branch Patron

Mollie Jeffrey – Membership Secretary

Sara Abey – Speaker Co Ordinator

Stan Ainsley – Committee member

Malcom Page – Committee member

Carlo Sisi - retired from the Committee but remains a Branch member.

Ann Arscott – P.O.A

Lt Col Peter Blaker paid tribute to John Green for his committed service to our branch over the years as Chair. We all agreed John has been a fantastic Chair and we look forward to him being our President.

Anne Evans as our new chair closed this year's AGM meeting.